Testimony for Proposed Bill No. 6121 – LOC No. 2550

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Proposed Bill No. 6121 – "An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Emergency Repairs to the Lyman Viaduct".

On 27 January 2006, the State Bond Commission approved $500,000 in emergency repair money for the Lyman Viaduct. Subsequently, in April 2006, the Attorney General's office approved an Agreement between the DEP and the Town of Colchester to perform emergency repairs to the Lyman Viaduct. This emergency repair work consisted of stabilizing the approximately 120 ft. high slope above the viaduct. This work was necessary to halt the on-going erosion that threatened the support system of a 16 in. sanitary sewer force main that carries approximately 1,200 gallons per minute of raw sewage from the towns of Hebron and Colchester to the waste water treatment plant in East Hampton.

As this project was evolving a major sinkhole failure occurred at the nearby Rapallo Viaduct in East Hampton as a result of failures within the culvert sidewalls. . Repair to the Rapallo failure was paid through emergency funds issued directly to the DEP. The Rapallo Viaduct is smaller than the Lyman Viaduct but was constructed in a similar manner at the turn of the century.

We are pleased to say that the stabilization of the Lyman Viaduct was completed in a timely manner and under budget in 2008. This allowed the Town of Colchester to continue with a desperately needed engineering evaluation of the twin 410 ft. long 15 ft. wide by 17 ft. tall arch culverts, and outfall structure under the embankment repair area.

Although the outcome of the engineering evaluation showed only minor deterioration of the inlet and culvert sections, the outfall structure is experiencing severe erosion and undermining. An approximately 17 feet deep scour pool has developed at the outfall. The headwall is undermined a minimum of 2 feet to a maximum of approximately 12 feet. The adjacent eastern wing wall has settled and rotated approximately 3.5 in. with the upper portion displaced laterally approximately 8 in. Given the critical status of the headwall and wing wall, and the approximately 1.0 factor of safety associated with the steep embankment slope, failure of either the headwall or wing wall could potentially result in a landslide of the embankment with the same potential failure to the sanitary sewer force main that was the central figure in the issuance of the prior emergency repair funds. The evaluation included a preliminary design for corrective measures and an estimate of probable cost which is the basis for the $650,000 continued emergency funding request. A copy of the report is being provided to you.

Given the State successfully utilized resources to preserve the health and safety of the citizens of Connecticut in the initial emergency repair, it is critical this additional money be approved to continue with the emergency repairs to the outfall structure and thereby protect not only the initial investment but also the historic Lyman Viaduct and the environmentally vibrant Dickenson Creek and downstream Salmon River.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of this critically needed project.